

# hopeful happenings

SEPTEMBER 2025: FALL EDITION

## Upcoming Groups



### **Caring Connections**

Caring Connections is a new, 8-week program for parents and children ages 2.5-5 that helps families build strong foundations for growth, learning, and connection. Each week includes a group parent discussion, a children's play-based learning group, and joint parent-child activities designed to strengthen bonds through shared play. Stay tuned for upcoming group information!



### **High School Social Skills**

This group is an opportunity for high school students to socialize and process in a safe space and develop strong interpersonal skills and build strong peer relationships. This group will focus on self-confidence, nonverbal communication, relationships, and interpersonal communication. This group meets on Thursdays at 6:30-8:00PM.



### **Pride Groups Fall Session**

Weekly support groups for LGBTQ+ youth offer opportunities for participants to build community, discuss challenges, and feel supported by others. Facilitated by program staff, these groups include a check-in, fun activities designed to help foster relationships, and time to share challenges and receive support. To join, participants complete an intake membership meeting with a staff member, becoming a member of our Pride Community.



### **LGBTQ+ Dungeons & Dragons**

LGBTQ+ Dungeons & Dragons Campaign begins September 30th! Working together to solve a murder mystery story, we will process real life relationships & aspects of identity. New and experienced players grades 9-12 welcome! Email [intake@ysgn.org](mailto:intake@ysgn.org) for more info and to join. This group meets on Tuesdays from 6:00-8:00PM.

For more information about the above groups or programs, or to schedule an intake, please email [intake@ysgn.org](mailto:intake@ysgn.org) or call 847-724-2620.

## In the Spotlight



### **Come HANG with us!!**

We are excited to introduce PrideHANG, a series of themed social drop-in groups for LGBTQIA+ high schoolers and allies. Come hang with us, meet new people, and have fun! This group will meet mainly on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month from 5:00-7:00PM. For LGBTQIA+ youth and allies grades 9-12.



### **Join the Pride Youth Ambassadors Today!**

Calling all LGBTQ+ young adults ages 22-35ish! We are putting together a new group of adults in our community who are passionate about supporting LGBTQ+ youth. Create community, support the next generation, and be an ambassador for the Pride Youth Program! Email [Michelle.Brody@ysgn.org](mailto:Michelle.Brody@ysgn.org) with questions!



### **Children's Winter Wear Drive**

Youth Services is joining local partners to provide winter coats to under-resourced children in our community this fall. From October 15<sup>th</sup> through October 29<sup>th</sup>, you can drop off new or like new coats, hats, scarves, and gloves at Youth Services. The event is sponsored by Youth Services together with the Debra Gelfand Children's Foundation, District 34, and District 34 PTAs. More information at <https://www.debragelfand.org/www>.

## Upcoming Events

Support our work! Youth Services is a non-profit organization and relies on donors and community support. Consider supporting us by attending these great fundraising events.



### **Girlfriends Boutique & Bites**

Grab some friends and join us on Thursday, October 23rd for our annual Friends of Youth Services (FOYS) Boutique at the Renaissance Chicago Glenview Suites Hotel. We are thrilled to welcome back some our most loved vendors as well as some new and exciting ones!

